

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 EB-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01

/069 W

-----281400Z 084525 /44

R 280803Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8971

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 1293

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN, BGEN, ID

SUBJECT: HERSH STORY ON DOMSAT

REF: JAKARTA 1219

1. PROMINENT DAILY SINAR HARAPAN DEVOTED FOUR FRONT PAGE STORIES AND EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 27 EDITION TO SEYMOUR HERSH'S HUGES AIRCRAFT/DOMSAT STORY IN NEW YORK TIMES. SINAR HARAPAN REPEATED SUBSTANCE OF HERSH ARTICLE IN GREAT DETAIL, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH ACCOMPANYING NEW YORK TIMES' STORY, OMITTING ONLY THE NAMES OF INDONESIANS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN BRIBERY. (COMMENT: IN ACCORD WITH THE UNWRITTEN RULES OF JAKARTA'S JOURNALISM, NO PAPERS HAVE YET REPORTED NAMES OF INDONESIANS WHO HAVE ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED BRIBES. THEY HAVE THUS FAR BEEN DESCRIBED IN ALL STORIES AS "HIGH OFFICIALS.") SINAR HARAPAN REPORTED COMMENTS OF COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER SALIM ALONG LINES OF REFTEL, AND ADDED FOR GOOD MEASURE STATEMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTION OF SALIM'S MINISTRY THAT HERSH STORY WAS "IMPOSSIBLE."

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2. ITS EDITORIAL COMPLAINED THAT, AS USUAL, INDONESIANS WERE HEARING REPORTS OF ALLEGED SCANDAL IN THEIR GOVERNMENT SECOND-HAND, I.E., AS A RESULT OF SALIM'S DENIALS. IT TERMED SALIM'S DENIAL "GENERAL IN CHARACTER," AND SAID THAT QUOTE WITH HIS EXPLANATION THE ISSUE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TO BE RESOLVED END QUOTE. IT IMPLIED THAT A HIGH LEVEL INVESTIGATIVE TEAM FROM INDONESIAN SHOULD GO TO THE U.S. TO CONSULT WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES

AND CONDUCT ITS OWN INVESTIGATIONS, AS IT SAYS WAS DONE BY JAPAN  
IN THE LOCKHEED CASE.

3. NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY NEW STANDARD AND RABBLE-ROUSING  
MERDEKA REPEATED SIMAR HARAPAN STORIES, WITH MERDEKA ADDING CARTOON,  
SHOWING MINISTER SALIM DENYING THE NEW YORK TIMES' ALLEGATIONS  
WHILE A SMALL FROG ASKS RHETORICALLY, "WHAT ELSE?" OTHER NEWS-  
PAPERS HAVE FOR MOMENT DROPPED STORY.

4. SINAR HARAPAN STORY MENTIONS LETTER FROM SENATOR PROXMIRE  
TO EXIM BANK, REQUESTING A "COMPLETE REPORT" ON THE HERSH  
ALLEGATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S TRANSMITTING TEXT  
OF PROXMIRE LETTER IF AVAILABLE.

NEWSOM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009